

Southeast California Regional Basin Study

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The Southeast California Basin Study (Study) is a 50/50 cost-share partnership between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Borrego Water District in collaboration with the Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and San Diego County Water Authority. Authorized under the 2009 Secure Water Act (Title IX, Subtitle F of Public Law 111-11), the project began in January 2011, and is expected to be completed within two years.

The area of study consists of nearly 5,200 square miles in southern California and features over 750,000 people, three irrigation districts with a combined agricultural crop production valued at over \$1 billion annually, four Indian Tribes, 10 cities, and California's largest inland lake, the Salton Sea.

The Study will:

- characterize current regional water supply and demand;
- assess risks to regional water supplies, including those due to climate change;
- identify potential strategies and options to resolve water supply and demand imbalances;
- identify potential legal and regulatory constraints and potential impacts to water users; and
- prioritize identified strategies and options for potential future actions.

The Study will also enable competing interests – including agricultural districts, environmental concerns, municipal/industrial users, and recreationists – to partner with Reclamation and investigate and evaluate existing water resources management practices, system components, and management mechanisms to optimize water resources in alternative scenarios.

The total cost of the study is \$850,000, with a 50/50 cost-share.

